

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7040

BILL NUMBER: HB 1344

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 7, 2006

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Government Consolidation in Vanderburgh County.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Hinkle

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 X DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill establishes the Vanderburgh County Government Efficiency Commission to study government consolidation in Evansville and Vanderburgh County. It prohibits the chairperson of the Commission from calling a meeting unless the voters of Vanderburgh County vote in favor of the continued study of consolidation in a nonbinding local public question held in the 2006 general election.

Effective Date: July 1, 2006.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill establishes the Vanderburgh County Government Efficiency Commission to study the unification of city and county governments in Vanderburgh County and recommend whether or not the General Assembly should unify the city and county governments. The Commission would issue its final recommendations before November 1, 2007, and the section would expire on December 1, 2007. The chair of the Commission, however, shall not call a meeting of the Commission before January 1, 2007, and shall call a meeting only if the residents of Vanderburgh County have voted in favor of the General Assembly continuing to study consolidation in Vanderburgh County.

Background: The Commission would consist of 19 members, with 6 legislators and 9 members appointed by the legislature along with 4 elected officials in Evansville and Vanderburgh County. The qualifications of each member of the Commission are specified within the bill. The bill specifies the Commission shall operate under the policies governing study committees adopted by the Legislative Council. As of December 2005, legislators receive a per diem of \$134 and reimbursement for traveling expenses. Lay members of a legislative commission are also entitled to a per diem, which is currently \$75 per day, and reimbursement for traveling expenses. The actual amount of per diem and the rate of reimbursement for travel could differ at the time a meeting is called

for the Commission.

Legislative Services Agency would provide staff for the Commission, and Commission expenses would be paid from funds appropriated to the Legislative Council. In the last interim, the budget for study committees with 16 or more members was \$16,500.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Travel expenditures for the City of Evansville and Vanderburgh County may increase if meetings of the Commission are called, depending on where the meetings are held.

Adding the public question to the ballot of the 2006 general election would have a minimal fiscal impact on the cost of printing ballots for the election.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Legislative Services Agency.

Local Agencies Affected: City of Evansville, Vanderburgh County.

Information Sources: Legislative Council Resolution 05-02.

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